

HONGKONG, MAY 1ST, 1872.

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the Hon. F. Byrnie (chairman), the Hon. J. Rogers, Messrs. Jensen, Welsh, Hitchcock, Bellison, Buxey, Boyd, Samsom, Arthur, Kahn, and the Hon. J. B. Byrnie.

The report of the proceedings at the previous meeting was taken up, read, and confirmed in the motion of Mr. Arthur, seconded by Mr. Kahn.

The CHAIRMAN then referred to the Report of the Committee presented to this Meeting, which is as follows, and which, having been agreed to only just before the meeting, could not be published before meeting.

The last half-yearly Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 12th September last, since which date but few new questions of interest have required the attention of the Committee; and the members have been fully occupied with the Members the following Report for the half-year ending December 31st, 1871.

Local Commissions and Brokerage.

In the last half-yearly Report, the Committee proposed to the effect that at this Meeting, a revision of the Commission and Brokerage applicable to the present trade of the Colony, or adoption by the Chamber.

At the General half-yearly Meeting held on the 12th September last, the Chamber adopted and published such a list, but the important and very material changes which have taken place in the method of conducting that in the business itself, of the Colony, in order to make it adaptable to present requirements. After a very careful consideration of the whole subject, the Committee resolved to submit the maximum scale in Appendix A for adoption and sanction.

It is scarcely necessary, in this connection, to remark upon the authorized mode of having recourse to an authority, which will carry with it the weight of having received the approval of the Chamber, and of the Committee of the Commercial Community, and the Committee could merely add that a like scale has recently been adopted by the sister Chamber at Shanghai.

The Blockade of the Port by Chinese Customs Officers.

The Committee regret that they have nothing of a satisfactory nature to report in regard to this question. At the half-yearly meeting, the Committee resolved to the effect that a memorial should be drawn up by the Committee upon the subject, and addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, but this has been found impossible to obtain, and the Committee have not been able to obtain the actual proceedings of these blockading vessels as would either warrant the drawing up, or give sufficient basis upon which to found, the proposed memorial. The failure is owing to the Government not having any strong authority, or providing information which they think will justify them in any trouble with their own authorities, or give them any personal discomfiture or inconvenience.

It may be said, however, that a regular system of espionage within, and a blockade outside the Colony, either directly or indirectly connected with the Chinese Government, actually exist, and that junks from this harbour are frequently in violation of the Proclamation issued by the Viceroy of Canton in 1869.

The Commercial Community of this port are deeply indebted to Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell for his efforts to bring this subject before their interests in reference to this question, and his criticism from the authorities at Canton the issue of the Proclamation above referred to, as on his being compelled from ill health, to leave the Colony, and his return to England, and his departure with his customary disregard of promises and obligations, recommenced the proceedings which were so much complained of in 1869. The Committee, through your Chairman, have endeavored to bring this subject before the Colonial Secretary during the Governor's absence, but it would appear as if he either manifest power or looked the inclination to interfere.

The non-official Members of Council also have made strong representations, but with a like result. The Committee can only hope that our new Governor, Sir Arthur Kennedy, will not allow the question to remain in its present position, but will exert his influence, and will initiate some inquiry, and prevent any person directly or indirectly connected with the Government of this Colony from rendering assistance, or in any way countenancing these proceedings, which are so frequent the frequent harbor for no friendly purpose.

It is also reported that not content with blockading the port, the Chinese Government actually collects war tax and customs' duties from the vessels of the Colony, and that the Committee have been baffled by the unwillingness of the Chinese to come forward and give information. They consider that it should be the duty of some of the officers who have been in the Colony, to give the necessary information for the expense of this Colony, to discover whether this extraordinary anomaly of a Foreign power levying duty within a Dependency of the British Crown, which is declared to be a free port, is really a violation of the Charter of the Public Manoeuvres to Lord Kimberley on the State of the Police.

The unanimous action taken by the Committee in September last upon this subject, and the direct connection it bore with the commerce and commerce of the Colony, suggested the Committee the propriety of addressing a letter to Mr. Charles Magnus, M.P., enclosing a copy of the Memorial. This was done in the Chairman's letter of explanation to the Members of the Chamber, and the Committee's very satisfactory reply thereto, will be found in Appendix B.

Gambling.

This subject has been so frequently found in place in the Committee's reports, that they have much satisfaction in hoping that it now appears for the last time. On the return of Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell in December last, the licensing system was put an end to, and the Chamber has been able to suppress gambling in the Community that gambling among the Chinese in the Colony had well nigh ceased. This statement should be received by the Chamber with much satisfaction, inasmuch as it has been often expressed that the suppression of Gambling was possible, but looking at the means at present employed, the hope may be expressed that His Excellency has not been too sanguine.

Chamber's Telegrams.

At the close of the present half-year the Committee received a proposal from the Messrs. Reuter's Telegraph Company for the supply of the Members of the Chamber with telegrams, and the Committee, after a long and careful consideration of the subject, were finally submitted to be individual subscribers to the Chamber's Telegrams for approval, and it was thereupon resolved that the Chamber should accept the terms offered by Reuter, and the Committee have much satisfaction in believing that on a reasonable charge, subscribers will now receive not only reliable, but very full information for the time being, and the Chamber's Telegrams have been abandoned, the time expended upon the consideration of the subject by them, and the labour of the Secretary in compiling a Code (this latter point, however, which has enabled them to make very favorable terms with Reuter's Agency, and furthermore, the Chamber is now in a position, should Reuter's Telegrams not come, to make such arrangements as they may see fit to make to their own.

New Member.

D. Welsh, Esq., has been elected, provisionally a Member of the Chamber, but according to the bye-laws, he must be confirmed by this Meeting.

Funds.

The Secretary's Account Current with the Chamber for the half-year ending, December 31st, 1871, has been presented to the Committee, and McIlken, from which it will be seen that there is a debit balance against the Chamber of £89.60, of which £769.37 belonged to the Chamber's Account proper, and £129.23 to the Secretary's Account. The balance for the present year, and amount due for Circulars, will again place the Chamber in ample funds for the current expenses of 1872.

The subscriptions collected for the Telegrams for the half-year ending, December 31st, 1871, are as follows:

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The Clergyman of the Future.
(Saturday Review: February 24)

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house sent him to assist a brother, a fishmonger. On Friday, the 8th, instead of returning to the shop, after delivering some fish, he stayed in the streets playing, for which he was reproved by his brother, who called him out. He eluded, cut off of the shop about twenty minutes after eleven o'clock, and ten minutes later was seen by a woman to mount the parapet of the Turk-road Bridge. Having crossed the rails at the top of the parapet, he looked round, cried out, "Good night," and jumped into the Regent's Canal. A policeman saw him struggling in the water, and heard him twice cry out, "Oh!" The drugs were great, but the boy was over 729 at death before the boy was dead. The jury strongly condemned the publishing of books which contaminated boys' minds, and said they thought some steps ought to be taken to suppress the sale of books of a kind of suicide while labouring under temporary insanity.

American Druggists.

The New York Times states that the report of the Commissioner of Pharmacy, giving an account of their first six months' work of examination, expresses a lamentable amount of ignorance on the part of very many of those who obtain prescriptions from doctors. Of 729 applicants (many of them proprietors, and all of whom claiming to be qualified druggists) barely three persons could read at sight the simplest schoolboy Latin at the top of the page. And a test prescription calling for a certain quantity of compound tincture of gentian, and also ascertain other proportion of infusion 'cucumis' (of the name), was given to an applicant to read. He puzzled over it for some time, finally handed it back, with the remark that there no store where he had ever worked did they have 'infusion of cucumis,' and in fact, he had never seen nor heard of the drug before, and made up his mind to give up the business. Most of the aspirants are, however, familiar with the Latin names of the medicines with which they have to deal, and knowing of several weights and measures, can manage to scribble along until such care careful physicians write an elaborate series of directions in Latin, whose the power and puzzled clerk has to cry for assistance. Dr. Graham says that a prescription containing the words 'medicines cucumis' once started in Brooklyn a well-stocked drug and street, and was taken to every store on both sides of the Broadway, no one having any 'cucumis,' until at last, it reached Hedgesman's at the Bowery house, where the owner, Mr. Hedgesman, was rightly read by a man who had been 20 years in business, and the medicine put up after having been rejected at 18 drug stores.

Two Children Cut to Death.—A fearful accident happened at the Portoken junction at the side of the Severn opposite Bristol. Two children named Hicks, whose parents are publicans residing at Oldcoote, were crossing the line below the bridge when the 115, upon train overtook the children, and cut them to pieces. They were six and nine years respectively.

Insurances.

**THE LIVERPOOL AND BOMBAY
TRADERS INSURANCE
COMPANY.**

THIS Under-signed having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire Marine Risks as follows:

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
of 77 1/2 Hongkong, 25th April 1870.

**DRESDEN INSURANCE COMPANY FOR SEA, RIVER, AND LAND TRANSPORT,
DRESDEN.**

THIS Under-signed having been appointed General Agents in China for the above Company are prepared to accept risks and issue policies Insurance at the current rates of Premium.

CARLOWITZ & Co.,
General Agents in China.
No 2193 Hongkong, 15th December, 1871.

PRINCE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS Under-signed having been appointed Agents to the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000, on Buildings, or on Goods stored in Warehouses.

DOUGLAS LAPEIRA & Co.,
at 717 Hongkong, 9th November, 1868.

NOTICE.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS Following rates will be charged in future for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding 10 days,	1 % of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 1 month,	do do.
Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months,	do do.
Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months,	do do.
Above 6 months,	do do.

LYALL & Co.,
Agents for the Queen Insurance Company,
at 242 Hongkong, 22nd January, 1870.

the extent of \$40,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored thereon.

THE LEBER, LIVINGSTON & CO.
125 Hongkong, 24th August, 1884.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.
FOR Insurances Houses and other Buildings
of Goods, Wares, Merchandises, Manufactures
and Farming Stock, Ships in Port, Boats,
Boards, Docks and the Cargoes of such Ships
and Ships Building and Repairing; Barges
and other Vessels on Navigable Rivers at
Canals; and Goods on board such Vessels
throughout Great Britain and Ireland, and
Foreign Countries, FROM LOSS OR DAMAGE
BY FIRE.

The Undersigned, Agents for the above Com-
pany, are prepared to grant Policies against
FIRE to the extent of \$50,000 on any one Fire
Class Risk.

THE LEBER, LIVINGSTON & CO.
125 Hongkong, 21st January, 1887.

**MERCHANTS MUTUAL MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY OF SAN
FRANCISCO.**

ENGAGEMENTS IN MARINE
INSURANCE.
Paid up Capital—\$2,000,000.

THIS Undersigned having been duly appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to accept Marine Risks on the usual
terms.

OLYMPHANT & CO.
1292 Hongkong, 2nd July, 1889.

**THE GUARDIAN FIRE AND LIFE AS-
SURANCE COMPANY.**
No. 11, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.
ESTABLISHED 1821.
And empowered by special Acts of Parliament.

Subscribed Capital \$2,000,000. Sterling
Total invested Funds £2,750,000.
Annual Income £320,000.

THIS Undersigned having been duly appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to take risks against Fire, on the usual
terms.

OLYMPHANT & CO.
1291 Hongkong, 7th December, 1889.

NOTICE.
ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE annual rates for Fire Insurance on the
various classes of Buildings and their con-
tents will remain as follows until further no-
tice, viz.—

Factories and semi-detached Dwelling Houses (removed from the town) and their contents.....	1	per cent.
Other Dwelling Houses (similarly situated) and their contents.....	1	per cent.
Offices and Godowns and their contents.....	1	per cent.

Other Risks by Special arrangement.
The following rates will be charged for
SHORT PERIOD Policies—

Not exceeding 10 days 1st per cent.	
Not exceeding 1 month 2nd per cent.	
Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months.....	3
Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months.....	6
Above 6 months, the full annual rate of 1	

ROBT. S. WALKER & Co.
Agents, Royal Insurance Company.
1769 Hongkong, 13th September, 1889.

NOTICE.

FROM and AFTER the following rates
will be charged for SHORT PERIOD
Insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding Ten days 1/10 of the annual rate.	
Not exceeding 1 month 1/4 do.	
Above 1 month and not exceeding three months.....	3 do. do.
Above three months, and not exceeding six months.....	6 do. do.
Above six months the full annual rate.	

ALBION LATHESON & Co.
Agents, Alliance Fire Assurance Company.
1678 Hongkong, 28th August, 1889.

**COMPAGNIE LYONNAISE D'ASSU-
RANCES MARITIMES.**

Société anonyme libre au Capital de 6,000,000
francs. Les francs sont divisés en 120,000
actions.

THIS Company, being associated for the pur-
pose of Marine Insurance in the Far
East, with the

LYONNAIS FRANÇAIS, Capitalised 6,000,000 francs.
And with the **LYONNAIS FRANÇAIS**
D'ASSURANCES MARITIMES,
Capital of 5,000,000 francs.

Offers to the ASSURED the
Security of a collective
Capital of 11,000,000 francs.
Agencies established, and Policies made
payable in Lyons, Paris, London, Marseilles,
Calcutta, Bombay, Yokohama, Hongkong and
Shanghai.

The Undersigned having been appointed
Agents in China for the above-named Com-
pany, are prepared to accept Marine risks
foreign or coastwise, at current rates.

OLYMPHANT & CO.
1377 Hongkong, 2nd July, 1870.

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4130	Comr. Trisco			Foonchow
4131	Comr. W. Smith			Hongkong
4132	Capt. Lewis J. Moore			South Sea Isl.
4133	Comr. W. Smith			Shanghai
4134	Capt. David B. Jones			Keelung
4135	Comr. John C. Jones			Keelung
4136	Comr. W. W. Boy			Keelung
4137	Capt. J. B. Barnett			Hankow
4138	Comr. J. H. Hest			Shanghai
4139	Comr. W. Smith			Shanghai
4140	Comr. N. Daborn			Singapore
4141	Comr. W. Smith			Singapore
4142	Capt. John K. F. Reid			Singapore
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